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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2017 GOLDEN TROWEL AWARD – TAFE NSW NIRIMBA

The Concrete Masonry Association of Australia (CMAA), Australia’s peak industry body for concrete masonry manufacturers, is pleased to announce that the 2017 Golden Trowel Award has been won by the team from TAFE NSW Bathurst - Trent Thomson, Michael Ingwersen and Kevin Sawdy.

Organised by the CMAA in cooperation with TAFE and the Australian Brick and Blocklaying Training Foundation (ABBTF), the Golden Trowel competition was held from 15 to 17 October 2017 at the TAFE NSW Nirimba.

The biennial Golden Trowel Award saw the best masonry apprentices from across Australia taking part in a unique team competition, where teams had to build a concrete structure with intricate detailing within a limited time. The teams were judged based on precision, craftsmanship and conformity to the design specifications.

Ms Elizabeth McIntyre, Chief Executive Officer of the CMAA, said, “Winning the Golden Trowel competition means a lot for their future as it is the only blocklaying competition for concrete masonry. We have seen an incredible level of quality and craftsmanship in this year’s competition.”

“With 9 teams coming from as far as Queensland, it was a very close call,” said Ms McIntyre. “The winning team, TAFE NSW Bathurst, had the best strategy, time management, and of course craftsmanship and attention to detail.”

“The Golden Trowel competition has been running for the past 24 years and is renowned for producing outstanding young blocklayers in a valuable trade facing skill shortages.”

The Golden Trowel competition not only encourages excellence among apprentices and recognising and rewarding the skills of young talent, it also showcases the diversity and brilliance of concrete.

Ms Chris Pracy, Head of SkillsPoint, Infrastructure, Energy and Construction for TAFE NSW has said: “As a civil engineer, I am enamoured with the product, its durability, fire resistance, energy efficiency, sound insulation properties and thermal comfort, but also share the belief that concrete is, to excuse a euphemism, sexy.”

The Golden Trowel Award is unique from other competitions in the industry in that it is a team challenge. Participating teams consist of a class teacher and two apprentice students, usually a third-year and a second-year apprentice. Teams were judged by a panel of industry

experts and the results were announced at the Golden Trowel Award Gala dinner on Tuesday 17 October 2017.

The winning team walks away with the coveted Golden Trowel trophy while their TAFE NSW Bathurst is the proud winner of the Challenge Shield until the next competition in 2019.

The Golden Trowel Award is held in high esteem and attended by representatives of the industry, educational institutions and governments.

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About the CMAA

The Concrete Masonry Association of Australia (CMAA) is the peak industry body that represents the concrete masonry manufacturers of Australia. This includes bricks, blocks, pavers and retaining walls. The CMAA is an industry body and does not sell or supply any

masonry products. The CMAA supports the concrete masonry industry by providing technical information and advice to architects, engineers and educators.

The list of participating teams is provided below. For more information on the Golden Trowel Award please contact Glenn Hogan at glenn@cmaa.com.au or (02) 8448 5500.

Participating Teams

TAFE NSW Albury
Frank OESER
Dylan GEPHART
Rhy SUTCLIFFE

TAFE NSW Bathurst
Trent THOMSON
Michael INGWERSEN
Kevin SAWDY

TAFE NSW Coffs Harbour
Frank PHILLIPS
David FRANCIS-CATER
Flynn MUIR

TAFE NSW Granville
Timothy LOVEDAY
Matthew HEAPE
Mun MUN

TAFE NSW Hunter
David LANGE-SMITH
Tyson FARRANT
Max ZABOYAK

TAFE NSW Miller
Michael OLAH
Chad FELLMOSE
Jason WALLACE

TAFE NSW Nirmiba
Warren BOYD
Blake HOLLAND
Nikola CIKAROVSKI

TAFE NSW Wollongong
Luke DUDGEON

Dylan KELLY-JAGO
Jake BAILEY

TAFE Queensland Gold Coast
Graham HUXTABLE
Levi MAHONEY
Jacob MORGAN